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NASA Selects Litton/PRC For NASA Sounding Rocket Program

NASA has selected Litton/PRC of McLean, VA, to perform services for a new contract which consolidates several previous service and supply contracts and other work supporting NASA's Sounding Rocket Program. The contract begins Feb. 1, 1999.

Services include designing, fabricating, integrating, testing and performing mission operations for sounding rocket missions.

"We are confident that the Litton/PRC team will continue the tradition of successful sounding rocket launches from sites worldwide in support of space and Earth science communities," said Mary Kicza, Associate Director of Goddard Space Flight Center.

The work will be performed at the Wallops Flight Facility and at various off-site locations worldwide in support of Wallops projects. The services will be provided under a performance-based, cost-plus award and incentive fee, indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity (IDIQ) contract.

The basic contract is for four years with two, three-year options. The contract's minimum IDIQ value for the four-year basic contract is \$11.9 million, and the

potential maximum IDIQ value for the basic contract period is \$211.8 million. The minimum value for the basic and two, three-year option periods is \$31.9 million and the potential maximum

value for the basic and two, three year option periods is \$572.5 million.

The contractor also will provide performance task order services for various Center programs using NASA Sounding Rocket Operations Contract government furnished property, such as the fabrication and environmental test facilities at Wallops.



NASA's Black Brant XII sounding rocket.

The NASA Sounding Rocket Operations Contract is an integral part of the "Wallops 2000" strategic plan, initiated in 1997, which provides a vision for Wallops to ensure its stability and vitality in the future. The majority of NASA civil service engineers and technicians working on the sounding rocket program will transition to advanced research and development projects including Space Shuttle small payloads, the Ultra-Long Duration Balloon Program and the University-class Explorer satellite program, as well as management of the new contract. Wallops will continue to manage the sounding rocket program for the Office of Space Science, NASA Headquarters.

First U.S. Station Element and Goddard Sponsored Payloads Launched On STS-88

Space Shuttle Endeavour, STS-88, was launched Dec. 4 at 3:36 a.m. EST. This is the first Shuttle mission dedicated to the assembly of the International Space Station. The six-member crew will work to mate Endeavour's primary payload, the U.S.-made Unity connecting module, to the Russian-built Zarya control module during the 12-day mission.

There are a total of four Goddard sponsored payloads aboard the Shuttle. A Space Experiment Module (SEM) payload involves 11 experiments. Teachers and their schools participating in the NASA Educational Workshop for Mathematics, Science and Technology (NEWMAST) Program provided eight of the 11 experiments.

Three SEM experiments have local connections.

The Horntown (VA) Educational Learning Project experiment will study mold growth on fresh foods exposed to the space environment versus those on Earth. Accomack County Schools (K-3) and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Wachapreague, VA, experiment is to evaluate the impact of variable "gravity" forces and the space environment on soil structure and the implications they might have for horticulture in space. Students in the NASA Wallops Summer High School Apprenticeship Research Program and the Space Club Scholars Program have submitted different samples from which to study the effect of space environment.

Goddard Team:

Recently the Executive Council met to review our status to be certified for ISO 9001. I am encouraged with progress made so far, but we have a lot of work in front of us to reach our goal.

Recent articles in Goddard News, special training classes and the ISO 9001 website offer background, questions and answers, and descriptions of what to expect. ISO 9001 is a business system that's here to stay. We need to be aware of what is required to earn the ISO 9001 certification and be prepared to take action to reach this critical milestone.

This system requires us to document how we conduct business so that the processes we use to produce products are consistent. The concept is simple: say what we do and do what we say. Documenting and maintaining our processes and taking the time to record the painstaking steps we take to develop quality products, whether that product is a subsystem or a piece of computer software, will give our customers confidence in our products and provide us a basis for continuous improvement.

I am convinced that ISO 9001 will take pressures off of people, will offer real cost and schedule efficiencies, will improve our practices and will bolster our reputation of being a leader in today's cost and quality-conscious marketplace.

A pre-assessment in February will tell us just how ready we are for the April audit that leads to our certification. Please take advantage of the information sources available to you about ISO 9001. Attend the training sessions scheduled and ask questions of your representative on the Quality Management Team. I encourage you to become knowledgeable and engaged in helping Goddard earn this certification. ISO 9001 has proven itself in hundreds of thousands of organizations across the nation. I am asking you to get involved in this activity because ISO 9001 will guide our business practices now and in the future.

Check the website at: <http://arioch.gsfc.nasa.gov/iso9000/index.htm> and be on alert for more bulletins in the near future. Charles Vanek is leading the Center's effort, I know you will give him your support and together we will conduct a successful pre-assessment audit this February.

A.V. Diaz

NASA OIG News

The Office of Inspector General has issued information regarding the outcome of two criminal investigations.

Case 1: On Nov. 18, a NASA Goddard Space Flight Center employee was sentenced in U.S. District Court, Greenbelt, MD, on a charge of theft of government property. The employee was sentenced to three years probation, placed on six months home detention, ordered to pay \$12,465 in restitution and assessed a \$25 special assessment. The employee admitted falsification of NASA time cards between July 1997 and March 1998 by adding hours that had not been worked.

Case 2: On Nov. 19, a NASA Headquarters employee entered a guilty plea in Maryland District Court, Upper Marlboro, MD, to one count of Grand Theft. The employee was given an 18-month suspended sentence to run concurrently with 18 months probation and ordered to make \$2900 in restitution to NASA. The employee was loaned a NASA laptop and printer to do work at home. The equipment was never returned; the employee reported to NASA it was stolen. Later it was admitted that the equipment had been pawned.

Wallops Shorts.....

Career Day

Scott Webb, Information Services Branch; Karon Eichelberger, Cortez III Service Corporation and Betty Flowers, Public Affairs Office participated in a Career Day at Northampton Middle School on Dec. 2.



Wallops Annual Awards Ceremony
December 18
2:30 p.m.
Bldg. D-10

Children's Christmas Party
December 21
6 p.m.
Bldg. F-3

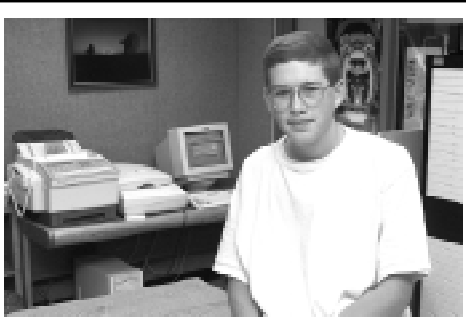


Bob Gidge (left), DynCorp Division Manager and John Riley (right) NASA Aircraft Office present Mike Lambertson (center) an award for exceptional support. Digital photo by Rick Huey.

Mike Lambertson Receives Exceptional Support Award

Michael C. (Mike) Lambertson, DynCorp recently received an award for exceptional maintenance support over the past 16 years on the NASA Beech 200 King Air based at the Wallops Flight Facility. This aircraft supports executive transportation between NASA Headquarters, Langley Research Center, Goddard and Wallops.

Lambertson contributes to the success of these missions by closely maintaining the aircraft's progressive maintenance program. He routinely tackles short-notice maintenance problems, diagnosing and correcting complex write-ups.



Chincoteague High School Senior, Karen Taylor (left) and Adam Bloxom (right) a Senior at Arcadia High School are participating in Accomack County School's Internship Program during the fall semester. Students in the program spend a few hours each day during the semester gaining "on the job" training at local businesses. Taylor is working with Sandy Bowden, Fiscal Operations Section. Bloxom is assigned to Mike Bundick, Information Services Branch. Digital photo by Rick Huey.



STOP!
Radio Contact with Control Tower is Required Beyond This Point!

People are accustomed to crossing the runways at their own discretion, but new signs have been posted around the airport alerting employees to contact the Control Tower operator prior to proceeding.

There have been problems with folks ignoring the signs and entering the airfield without permission. They are possibly putting themselves, aircrews and airplanes at risk when they enter the airfield without the consent and supervision of the Tower operators.

Prevent an accident, STOP and contact the Tower before crossing the runways.

Items For Sale

1994 S-10 Pickup, 84,000 miles - oil change every 3,000 miles. New A/C compressor and hoses. Brake drums and rotors turned. New shoes and pads. New battery. Good Tires. \$7,700. Call 757 824-0991 after 5 p.m.

Baldwin piano pro in excellent condition. Console piano \$1100. See Terry Ewell, or call 757 665-6199, or leave a message on 757 665-4869.

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